

## **Blunt visits city ninth-graders**

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Students at Vashon Williams 9th Grade Academy received a short economics lesson today from an unlikely teacher: Gov. Matt Blunt.

The governor's lesson — on the financial benefits of receiving a high school and college diploma — was part of his morning visit to the new school, where 266 ninth grade students and 15 teachers were moved Jan. 17. The move is an effort by the district to provide stronger instruction and more individual attention to the pupils before they rejoin Vashon High School as tenth grade students in August.

In a brief sit-down with members of the school board as well as several teachers, Blunt commended the "bold move" Superintendent Creg Williams and the school board made by creating the new academy. He also praised the choice to move about 65 seniors from Vashon High School to the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus.

During his visit Blunt focused on an increased emphasis on math and science education, and sought suggestions on how to improve student achievement.

Students at the school take what Williams calls a "double dose" of math and literacy classes: one period of standard curriculum in each area and another remedial class to emphasize basic skills.

Blunt's visit is one of several across the state leading up to his Math and Science Summit this spring.